

Thursday, October 02, 2008

[From the Coeur d'Alene Press](#)

- Snacks at recess

[From the Spokesman-Review](#)

- No new education news stories posted online today.

[From the Moscow Pullman Daily News \(password required\)](#)

- UI pres pushing program shakeup forward
- UI research scientist temporarily reinstated

[From the Lewiston Tribune \(password required\)](#)

- No new education news stories posted online today.

[From the Idaho-Press Tribune, Nampa](#)

- No new education news stories posted online today.

[From the Idaho Statesman](#)

- Emmett voters reject \$20 million school district bond

[From the Twin Falls Times-News](#)

- No new education news stories posted online today.

[From the Idaho State Journal \(password Required\)](#)

- Students taste life on the farm

[From the Idaho Falls Post Register \(password required\)](#)

- No new education news stories posted online today.

FROM THE COEUR D'ALENE PRESS

Snacks at recess

Posted: Wednesday, Oct 01, 2008 - 11:52:00 pm PDT

By BRIAN WALKER

Staff writer

JEROME A. POLLOS/Press

John Carney, 9, eats a kiwi during his lunch Wednesday at Ponderosa Elementary in Post Falls. Ponderosa was one of 30 schools in the state awarded a grant to provide students with free fresh fruits and vegetables throughout the school day as healthy snack options.

Grant allows Post Falls school to offer fresh fruit on breaks

POST FALLS -- Ponderosa students will soon be able to go bananas at recess and not get lectured.

Students of the Post Falls elementary will be able to stop by a cart of fresh fruit and vegetables during recess or other breaks for a healthy snack to help them get through the day.

The school has been awarded a \$24,862 USDA grant as part of a pilot project to offer students more nutrition during regular school hours and increase learning.

"The pilot studies have shown that this program directly contributes to healthier long-term eating habits and increased attention in the classroom," said Ponderosa Principal Kathy Baker. "In addition, the grant could not have come at a better time as we have seen the downturn in the economy directly affect our students in many ways."

Annie Mader, the Post Falls School District's food services director who applied for the grant with Baker, said fruits and vegetables will be offered to students starting later this month and will be available throughout the rest of the school year.

"One of the things that Americans don't eat enough of is fruits and vegetables, especially fresh ones," Mader said. "When a child is full, that increases the ability to learn."

The fruits and vegetables will be ordered from Spokane Produce separate from the order for meals.

Part of the criteria to qualify for the grant is that schools must have 50 percent or more of their student population on the district's free or reduced cost meal program. The produce will be offered to all students, however.

Baker said the school has also experienced an increase in use of its free summer meals program for students.

Baker said the food will be offered during the morning recess for grades 1-3 and during the morning "nutrition break" for grades 4-5.

"It is our experience that this is when children are more hungry and more willing to eat a more nutritious snack such as a fruit or vegetable," Baker wrote in the grant application. "Ponderosa will strive to do whatever it can to help children succeed."

School officials said some teachers have been known to discretely buy non-perishable food items to allow students to have access to more nutrition.

FROM THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW

No new education news stories posted online today.

FROM THE MOSCOW PULLMAN DAILY NEWS (PASSWORD REQUIRED)

UI pres pushing program shakeup forward

Daley-Laursen says university needs to maintain competitive edge

By Halley Griffin, Daily News staff writer

Posted on: Wednesday, October 01, 2008

University of Idaho President Steven Daley-Laursen said the university must move ahead with the "reprioritization" of its programs in order to stay competitive with other universities.

Daley-Laursen met with the UI's Faculty Council on Tuesday to field questions they'd gathered from their various departments and colleges.

He urged UI faculty to distinguish themselves from their peers in other universities across the state and nation.

"Whether we like it or not, in the state of Idaho we are set up having competitors," he said.

"Think about that competition space in Idaho as you think about our program array."

Daley-Laursen announced the reprioritization and the implementation of a universitywide hiring "pause" during his fall address to the university community last month. The pause and reprioritization were adopted with the goal of saving the university money in some areas that could be used in other, more strategic areas.

UI faculty member Larry Forney agreed with Daley-Laursen, saying he can see the UI losing opportunities in areas such as funding for research.

"We need a competitive advantage. The overriding importance is that we move; that we move now and not go through endless planning, thinking, resorting," he said.

Faculty Council Vice Chairman Jack Miller asked if UI officials were pressing forward with a specific dollar amount in mind for reallocation.

"It's literally impossible to say, 'We're going to have \$14.5 million at the end of the exercise.' That's not what the exercise is about," Daley-Laursen said.

UI Vice President for Finance and Administration Lloyd Mues said part of the short-term goal of the pause and reprioritization is to find areas to save money in light of a 1 percent statewide budget holdback recently ordered by Gov. C.L. "Butch" Otter.

Mues said Friday the UI would have to cut its budget by just under \$1 million.

"We're always working and looking ahead, what are those costs that we can't forecast? So we've got to find some money to settle our near-term budget, but he's thinking ahead and looking to the future," Mues said of Daley-Laursen.

In the long-term, Mues said longtime UI officials would like to build up the university's strategic reserves. That would allow the university to draw money from its reserves rather than make cuts in other areas in the event of a future holdback.

"The goal is to continue defining our strategic process," Daley-Laursen said. "In the process, depending on the year and what's coming at us economically, we will have some resources to invest in that future and (in other years) we'll have a little less, but we'll always have some."

Provost Doug Baker said he did not anticipate laying off faculty in response to the governor's holdback.

UI research scientist temporarily reinstated

Dziewanowska's immigration case has been reopened
By Halley Griffin, Daily News staff writer

Posted on: Wednesday, October 01, 2008

A researcher who was facing deportation to Poland after being denied residency has been temporarily reinstated to her position at the University of Idaho.

Katarzyna Dziewanowska received a letter from the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services office in Lincoln, Neb., on Tuesday granting her temporary work status until Jan. 1, 2009. She said she will return to work Thursday.

Dziewanowska, 64, said she was issued a new work card and her case for legal permanent resident status has been reopened.

"In the middle of September, for reasons that are not clear for me, immigration decided to open the case," Dziewanowska said.

Dziewanowska's Boise-based attorney, Maria Andrade, confirmed that the case for legal permanent resident status had been reopened, but declined to comment on how or why.

Sharon Rummery, spokeswoman for USCIS in San Francisco, said she could not discuss specific cases because of the Federal Privacy Act, but that somebody usually applies to have a case reopened.

Dziewanowska researched "sensitive information with regard to bioterrorism" for the university for about 14 years, Andrade said.

She had been working on temporary work visas, but was denied when she applied for legal permanent residency. According to an Associated Press report, Dziewanowska was told to stop working in spring 2005.

Andrade said the denial was a result of a period of unauthorized work days, time during which Dziewanowska was renewing her work visa.

She said the university misadvised Dziewanowska by telling her she was authorized to work while her visa was pending.

"I don't think this was malicious or intentional by any means," Andrade said, adding that an employer has an independent obligation to ensure that all of their employees are work-authorized.

"They clearly made an error, and we're all regretting that, but who's suffering from that error is this highly skilled researcher who is now facing deportation," Andrade said. "Her husband and son are also depending on that status."

She said there is no established time frame in which USCIS has to make a final decision on her permanent residency, so Dziewanowska will wait indefinitely. If a decision is not made before her temporary work status expires, Dziewanowska will have to reapply for her work card, a process her attorney said she hopes to avoid since it costs \$340 each time.

"We're kind of in limbo at this point," Andrade said.

She said the reopening of Dziewanowska's case does not guarantee a favorable outcome, and "there are no guarantees until it's all done."

Dziewanowska said she believes the changes are moving her case in a positive direction.

"I'm feeling a little bit of shock because it all happened so quickly, but I am of course very satisfied with this turnaround," Dziewanowska said. "This is good news for me and my family."

FROM THE LEWISTON TRIBUNE (PASSWORD REQUIRED)

No new education news stories posted online today.

FROM THE IDAHO-PRESS TRIBUNE, NAMPA

No new education news stories posted online today.

FROM THE IDAHO STATESMAN

Emmett voters reject \$20 million school district bond

- STATESMAN STAFF

Edition Date: 10/02/08

Voters on Tuesday turned down a \$20 million bond measure proposed by the Emmett School District.

The bond was supported by 52.6 percent of voters, but a supermajority of 66.6 percent was needed to pass. There were 3,260 votes cast in the election, with voter turnout topping 40 percent, according to Sue Beitia, superintendent of the Emmett School District.

Beitia said the bond money would have been used for new computers for students and teachers, building safety upgrades and renovations and new buildings, including a new professional/technical building and gym.

Those who voted "yes" on the bond were given an advisory ballot to vote on their preference of different bond amounts (\$3.4 million, \$5 million, \$10 million or \$20 million). Beitia said the majority of those who voted "yes" chose \$20 million.

The district is experiencing serious financial problems, including a deficit of more than \$900,000 at the beginning of last year.

"We're still in a fragile financial situation," Beitia said.

FROM THE TWIN FALLS TIMES-NEWS

No new education news stories posted online today.

FROM THE IDAHO STATE JOURNAL (PASSWORD REQUIRED)

Students taste life on the farm

Ag Days gave more than 900 children chance to experience working farm

BY DEBBIE BRYCE

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TYHEE — Local fourthgraders spent a day on the farm as part of Ag Days, sponsored by Bannock County Farm Bureau.

Sherril Tillotson, a member of the Farm Bureau Women's Committee, said more than 900 students came out to Swore Farm during the three-day event, which ended Wednesday.

"The program has improved and grown each year," Tillotson said.

Ag Days has been an annual District 25 event for more than 15 years.

Mike and Wendy Swore, owners of the Swore Farm, have hosted the District 25 students for the past three years.

The 29-acre working farm, located on Ballard Road, is operated by Wendy, Mike and their five children.

"We stress about (Ag Days) every year, but we enjoy it," Wendy said.

The students received snack sacks and Tillotson said the United Dairy Association provided milk for the event.

Bannock County Soil Conservation, the Bureau of Land and the U.S. Forest Service presented a number of interactive educational displays, and Rocky Mountain Power conducted an electrical safety demonstration Wednesday.

Tillotson said Future Farmers of America from Highland High School escorted the students to each activity and offered roping lessons to the elementary students.

Students, teachers and parents made their way through the corn maze by answering questions aimed at dispelling misconceptions about agriculture.

Wendy Swore said the maze will be open throughout the month of October by appointment, and Oct. 6 and 13 the farm is open for pumpkin picking as well.

For more information about Swore farms or to make an appointment call (208) 238-7466.

FROM THE IDAHO FALLS POST REGISTER (PASSWORD REQUIRED)

No new education news stories posted online today.